

COMMISSIONER  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At Edinburgh June 1743

Ordains the same to be forthwith printed,  
abled to give  
Convention  
made known  
to the effect  
ment in matter  
the Assembly for their timely activities  
beauties thank to the Commissioners of

EDINBURGH, BR

Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the  
King's most excellent Majesty.

**T**He Estates of this Kingdome pre-  
 sently convened, having read and  
 considered the Remonstrance given in to  
 them by the Commissioners from the Ge-  
 nerall Assembly, As they do returne  
 heartie thanks to the Commissioners of  
 the Assembly for their timous advertise-  
 ment in matters of so great importance:  
 So to the effect the same may be the better  
 made known to all the members of this  
 Convention, and they thereby more en-  
 abled to give their resolutions therein,  
 Ordains the same to be forthwith printed,  
 and that this presents be Warrant for  
 that effect.

Printed by Edward W. Printer to the  
 Arch. Primerose,  
 Cler. Conven.

**To the right Honourable, the Noblemen, the Commissioners of Shires and Burrowes, assembled in the Convention of Estates at Edinburgh; June 22. 1643. years, The humble remembrance and desires of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly.**

**A**ccording to the trust committed unto us by the Generall Assembly in this time of so many difficulties, and so great danger to Religion and Peace, which have exercised us this time past, and doe still more and more presse us above measure, We have given warning to the whole Ministrie, how to acquit themselves against all sorts of Enemies to Religion and Peace: We have also by petition made our humble addresse to the Kings most excellent Majestie, for remedying the present evils, and preventing the like in time coming; Wherein we have had the happinesse to be countenanced and assisted by the Lords of His Majesties honourable privie Councell, and the Commissioners for conserving the Peace: But to our great grief have not found the successe answerable to Our Endeavours and Expectation; which is also resented in a late Declaration by

the Lordship of the Kirk, and the Commission for governing the Peace, and is now generally known to the whole Kirk and Kingdome; and therefore having the opportunity of this Honourable Convocation, representing the whole body of the Kingdome, (wherein we humbly acknowledge the wise, timous, and mercifull providence of God) we finde our selves bound, both as the faithfull Ministers of Christ, and watchmen unto the house of Israel, and as Commissioners of the Assembly, set after a speciall manner upon the watch-tower at this time, to give warning from God of the present dangers, and with all earnestnesse in the name of God, to intreat your Lordships for a speedy remedie.

We need not make any Remonstrance to your Lordships of Romish Heresies, Superstition, Usurpation, and Tyranny, nor of the inestimable benefit of the Reformation of Religion, which next unto the first planting of Christian Religion it self, is the greatest mercy that ever God bestowed upon the world, and is no lesse then a resurrection from the dead; nor of the many violent and fraudulent wayes, which Antichrist hath used in acquiring, preserving, and propagating his Kingdome, and thereby hath declared himself to be Antichrist indeed. The Kirks and Kingdomes of Britain, France, Germany, and other places, from the first time of Reformation to this day bear testimony of his fraud and violence. We only represent what great and marvellous things the Lord hath done for this Kirk and Kingdome of old and of late, such as he hath not been pleased to do this day to any Nation under Heaven; which hath been many times matter of humble and thankfull acknowledgement to our selves, of admirati-



on to other reformed Kirks, and of affrontment to the  
enemies of God; who nevertheless in the invincible  
malice and hardnesse of their Hearts, have ever been  
since the first beginning of Reformation, according to  
their own Principles, by all their craft and might op-  
posing and fighting against the work of God. And al-  
though by the wisdom, power and good providence  
of God, they have been many times disappointed of  
their ends, and their devices turned upon their own  
heads; yet as enemies of all righteousness, and full  
of all subtilty and mischief, do they never cease to per-  
vert and resist the right wayes of the Lord: which hath  
been formerly, and is at this day, the cause of many and  
great dangers to our Religion, and to the peace and  
happinesse both of King and Countrey.

When we look upon the records of former times,  
As we perceive the Kirk of God in this Kingdome in  
most of her nationall Assemblies to have entred in a  
deep consideration of the dangers of the true Religion,  
of the causes whence they did arise, and of the best and  
most effectuall remedies, whereby they might be re-  
moved; So do we finde the principall dangers disco-  
vered by the generall Assemblies to be the same which  
at this time threaten our Religion and Peace. One of  
them was from forrain invasion by Papists in Armes,  
or preparing forces to come against this Iland, Another  
was of intestine conspiracies and secret plots of Pa-  
pists and their assistants within the Kingdome; And  
the third was, the ordinary resort of Papists to Court,  
their familiar admittance to the Kings and Queens Ma-  
jesties Presence, and their preferment to places and im-  
ployments of Trust, with the slighting and neglecting  
of such as were known to be zealous of the Truth and

**Cause of God against Popery and Corruption.** In all which they did wisely observe a threefold conjunction: First, That the safety of Religion, and of the Kings person, crown and posterity, were inseparably joyned, That the danger of the one was also the danger of the other, That they did stand and fall together, and had the same common friends and enemies, which was acknowledged and professed by his Majestie that then was, with resolution to assist by his power and royall Authority the endeavours of the Kirk for preserving of Religion, and his Estate, against all forrain and intestine practices of Papists and Apostats. Secondly, The conjunction of the safety of the two kingdomes of *Scotland* and *England*, because in one Iland, although under divers Princes, and that the danger from popish forces and conspiracies was common to both, which was the ground of the generall band of this Kingdome the year 1588. and of the common band and union betwixt the two Kingdomes in the year 1585. in their joynt defence of Religion against the common Enemy. Thirdly, the conjunction betwixt the Kirks of Britain, and all other Kirks, professing the true protestant Religion with them, which was the reason of the desire of a generall League and Christian Confederacie of all Princes and States, sincerely professing the Evangel, to be opposed to the ungodly conspiracies of the enemies of Gods Truth.

Concerning these three sorts of dangers, we may truly say with the Preacher, *That which hath beene, is now*, And that not so much by vicissitude and change, as by continuance and succession of the same kindes of dangers to the true Religion, which remaineth alwayes the same, it being built upon the rock, and therefore unalterable

unalterable by the course of time. Yet the difference is so great; that we ought thereby to be excited to the greater vigilancie: For first; The dangers are by time grown greater then they were before: For now the Papists are in Armes within the Iland, and that which was feared as a forrain invasion, is now become intestine, felt within the bowels of *England*, and is at the distance but of a few dayes march from our selves; And therefore in divers respects more dangerous to both Kingdomes, then the Armado, or any other forrain invasion; The hatred of brethren being the strongest, and the resistance being by division made the weaker: Now, the secret plots and inward combinations of Papists and Malignants, which have been lately discovered, and are more particularly known to your Lo. then to us, are much aided and assisted, By those of the Prelaticall Faction; which answerably unto their practices make open profession to joyn rather with the Papists then with us; By Malignants and Dis-covenanters, who from no zeal to any Religion, but that they may serve their own particular projects, do joyn their counsels with the Papists, and really serve their ends; And by others, who have suffered themselves to bee drawn away, and divided from the straight way wherein they were wont comfortably to walk, not upon designe; but by the cunning of Malignants, by enticements of Societic, and by naturall Relations, to co-operate with them, who may wel participate with them in their paines; and (if they return not quickly to their first love) in their punishments also; But if they consider the intencion of their Authors and Leaders, can have small hopes to have any part or share in their intended rewards: Now, Papists, Prelats, and Ma-

ligants; and not onely about the Kings and Queens  
 Majesties; but also are supposed to be the best Subjects,  
 the chief supporters of the Crown, and maintainers of  
 Royall Honour; And such as oppose Papisme and Brei-  
 hols are conceived to be either enemies, or not so good  
 Subjects. Now, the bands of the conjunction of the  
 King and Reformed Religion are burst asunder, and a  
 contrary way of safety by Papists is provided and pre-  
 ferred: And now, contrary to the Proceedings of all  
 our Assemblies, to the resolution of the convention of  
 estates in the year 1589, and to all the remonstrances  
 and declarations of this Kirk and Kingdome, which  
 have been many, since the beginnings of our troubles,  
 no danger is apprehended to our Religion by prevailing  
 of Papists or Papistry in England: Against which,  
 as being contrary both to sense and reason, the Remon-  
 strances of the estates of Zealandy to the Estates there,  
 speaketh thus; *We see in the destruction and weakening of  
 the Reformed Churches in England, to be the beginning of  
 the ruine of all the Reformed Churches in whole Europe, spe-  
 cially of Scotland, who shall not possibly escape the same  
 fears of Religion with England.* And their letters pre-  
 sently sent unto us, speak to the same sense. And there-  
 be three too pregnant and publick witnesses, The inva-  
 sion 1582, the Powder treason Novemb. 5, and the  
 Service book 1637, all which were intended against  
 the Kirks of both Kingdomes, either immediately, or  
 mediately, and by consequence. And thus, your  
 Lordships may perceive in all these considerations  
 the former dangers of our Religion to be at this  
 time not onely continued, but mightily encreased.  
 Secondly, there is another difference, that not only  
 the old dangers are grown to a greater height, but new  
 dangers

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dangers unknown in former times are multiplied against us: Arms are taken up by Papists, and the Popish party, under pretext of service to the Kings Majesty. The Queen still using all means with his Majesty, with the Subjects, and with Strangers, to promote and settle her own profession against the Reformed Religion: Our hopes expressed in our Supplication, of disbanding of Popish forces in England, & of means to be used for the Queens conversion, all frustrated: Papists through their successes in Ireland, their power in England, and their expectation in this Kingdome, daily growing to a greater strength, number and insolencie: No execution of the Laws against Papists, although excommunicated and denounced Rebels; Whence it is, that they still respect Jesuits and Seminarie Priests, They travell where they will, armed with Carbines and Pistolls, to the terror and seducing of poore People, and speak what they please of Religion, and of the present troubles; And if any of them happen to apprehend danger here, they flee into England, and finde not only shelter, but advancement among the Papists there in arms: And our Covenant (which is in the own nature, and was in effect in former times a fortresse and defence against Papistrie, and against defection and division among our selves, is, to the great dishonour of God, to the scandal, danger, and detriment of Religion, many wayes violated, neglected, & in some clauses quite forgotten, as if it had never been sworn nor subscribed: Resolutions have been taken by common consent of the Generall Assemblie, of their Commissioners, of the Lords of privie Councell, and the Conservers of Peace, with the approbation of all the Presbyteries of the Land, for sending of Petitions to the Kings Majestie, and Declarations to the



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Parliament, for Unitie in Religion, and Uniformitie of Church-government, as a necessary meane for the preservation of our Religion and Peace : Yet contrary to the Covenant, some have suffered themselves to be divided and drawne away by suggestions or allurements from these common resolutions; Have cast in Lets and Impediments to stay and hinder the same, so farre have they been from suppressing, or (as need did require) from making dangerous and divisive motions known, that they might have been timously obviated; Have wrested words of the Covenant by their sinister interpretations to their own ends, quite contrary to the intention of the Covenant; And whether in their meetings and combinations they have used any other meane directly contrary, or indirectly prejudiciall to the oath of the Covenant, their own hearts know, and the Searcher of hearts will make known in his own time. It were a wonder if Papists were not like themselves, working according to their own grounds and wonted practices, for the liberty of their profession, at this time which seemeth to smile upon them, and to flatter them with the promises of so many advantages : But should it not seem als great a wonder, that any amongst us should be so unlike to themselves, and to that which they professed to be at the renewing of their Covenant, that (although it may be, different in intentions) they are wittingly become fellow-workers with Papists, in hindring the desire of the Reformation in England, and hazarding the settled Reformation here. When we consider the wayes of G O D, who often in his justice punisheth sin with sin, we have reason to fear this to be a spirituall judgement for the neglect of the worship of G O D, common blasphemies, prophanation of  
the



the Lords day, unrighteousnesse, deceit, malignant, adulteries, incests, all kindes of uncleannes, and excesse of all sorts, with the forgetting of the affliction of Gods people in other places, which bring on other sins, and threaten us more then all the former dangers ; we having of late so solemnely promised to live soberly, righteously, and godly.

G O D hath honoured your Lordships, and this whole Kingdome represented by you, to do great things for his Name ; when now we have endured the heat of the day, let us not weary in the evening, lest we lose our reward : Your noble and worthy Predecessours had their own troubles, and trialls in former ages, the present are yours by divine providence, Great things are expected from this Kingdome for the benefit of all the Reformed Kirks, especially of the Kirk of England, unto which we have the voice of the Classes of Ieland ( who in respect of our near relation are but strangers unto England ) at this very time inviting and exciting us ; And G O D hath given us from by-past experience, great encouragements for afterward : Faithfulnesse in the work unto which G O D calleth you at this time, shall be honour to the Kingdome, safety to the Kirk, comfort in life and death, and a Crown of glory in the world to come, with which this world hath nothing of any weight or worth to compare.

All our desire at this time is, that your Lordships in your wisdome would consider of the aforementioned dangers, and after they are found to be not imaginarie or counterfeit ; but true and reall above any thing that we have exprest, your Lordships would against all differences and divisions, unite your selves heartily and strongly in the cause of God, that it may once appear

made, and this made at Court, and is now  
recorded from the said Sessions of the said  
Kingdom; And that your Lordships may be pleased to  
think upon the best and most effectual remedies for  
the preservation of our Religion, which as is well  
known to your Lordships, and hath been often expressed  
in our Petitions, Remonstrances and Declarations, can  
not possibly be preserved, unless the condition of it be  
glorious in his Majesty's other Dominions be seriously ta-  
ken to heart. And herein as your Lordships shall be  
pleased to require of us, we shall most willingly con-  
tribute, what we our selves can conceive, or have learn-  
ed from the proceedings of the General Assembly  
in the like cases. Likens we do now most earnestly be-  
seach GOD to assist your Lordships by the good  
use of Counsell and Peace, to cause the light of his  
Word to shine in your Hearts, and to bless your  
meeting with a peaceful and comfortable conclusion,  
to the joy of all the People of GOD.

And whereas for the more perfecting of  
the word, into which GOD calleth you at this time,  
I shall, as I shall have opportunity, take to the King,  
comfort in his death, and a Crown of glory in the  
world to come, which this world hath nothing  
of any weight or worth to compare.

And whereas the said word would consider of the  
King, and that they be not imagined to be  
affected to - but care and zeal above anything that we  
have expressed, your Lordships would against all hills  
and divisions, unite your loves heartily and  
strongly in the name of God, that it may once appear

**P P M S**